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R 272247Z DEC 76
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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INFO RUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 3195
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 7082
RUEHTP/AMEMBASSY TAIPEI 2137
RUMJPG/USLO PEKING 1095
RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4475
BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 6367

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UN, US, TW

SUBJECT: SEABED TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS

1. SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF PREPARATIONS FOR SEABED TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE (SEGARRA) HAS REQUESTED US VIEWS ON NEXT STPS IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (FEBRUARY 7-11, 1977) AND OF REVIEW CONFERENCE ITSELF (JUNE 20-JULY 1). SHE HAS ALSO APPROACHED THE OTHER DEPOSITARIES OF THE TREATY (UK AND USSR).

2. SEGARRA SAID IMMEDIATE QUESTION IS MANNER IN WHICH TREATY PARTIES WILL BE OFFICIALLY INFORMED OF DATES OF MEETINGS, INVITATIONS, SHE SAID, INCLUDING REQUESTS THAT SECRETARIAT BE INFORMED OF PROPOSED DELEGATIONS, SHOULD BE SENT OUT SOON -- PREFERABLY BY FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY. SHE NOTED THAT IN THE CASE OF THE NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE IN 1975, SECRETARIAT HAD SENT OUT INVITATIONS, ON BEHALF OF THE DEPOSITARIES, TO PREPCOM MEMBERS (NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE PREPCOM CONSISTED OF MEMBERS OF CCD AND OF IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS THAT WERE PARTIES TO THE NPT). SEGARRA SAID THAT THIS PROCEDURE COULD BE FOLLOWED AGAIN, ALTHOUGH SEABED REVIEW CONFERENCE PREPCOM IS OPEN-ENDED (I.E., ALL TREATY PARTIES MAY PARTICIPATE). THIS FACT RAISES PROBLEM OF OBTAINING SINGLE LIST OF TREATY PARTIES AGREED AMONG DEPOSITARIES. THE KEY QUESTION IN THIS CONNECTION IS THAT OF POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION BY THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, WHICH IS A PARTY, HAVING DEPOSITED INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION IN WASHINGTON BUT NOT IN LONDON OR MOSCOW. (PRC IS NOT A PARTY.) SECONDARY QUESTIONS UNDER THIS PROCEDURE WOULD BE STATUS OF BYELORUSSIA AND UKRAINE, WHICH HAVE DEPOSITED INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION IN MOSCOW ONLY.

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3. SEGARRA NOTED THAT IF DEPOSITARIES OF SEABED TREATY COULD NOT REACH AGREEMENT ON SINGLE LIST OF PARTIES, ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE FOR EACH DEPOSITARY TO INVITE ALL COUNTRIES THAT HAVE DEPOSITED WITH IT. SEGARRA SAID SECRETARIAT COULD PREPARE STANDARD DRAFT INVITATION TO BE CIRCULATED BY EACH DEPOSITARY.
4. A THIRD POSSIBILITY (NOT MENTIONED BY SEGARRA) WOULD BE FOR SECRETARIAT TO INVITE ALL PARTIES AGREED TO BY ALL DEPOSITARIES, WITH OTHERS KEPT INFORMED WITHOUT BEING INVITED.
5. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION WITH UK BUT NOT WITH SOVIETS. BRITISH WOULD PREFER TO HAVE INVITATION EXTENDED BY SECRETARIAT ON BEHALF OF DEPOSITARIES, BUT THEY RECOGNIZE THAT SPECIAL ISSUE IS RAISED BY ROC ADHERENCE.
6. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON HANDLING ISSUE OF INVITATIONS TO SEABED TREATY PREPCOM AND RVIEW CONFERENCE. SHERER